

GRAPESVINE

VISITACION VALLEY

NUMBER 93

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

APRIL 1994

Best of Both Worlds at VVES



Mrs. Anderson's fifth-grade class performs a play entitled "I Have a Dream" and poetry by Langston Hughes.



Mr. Leung's second-grade Chinese bilingual class demonstrates the traditional "Lion Dance" and Kung-Fu.

Visitation Valley Elementary School celebrated both Black History Month and Lunar New Year on February 28 with successful joint multicultural assemblies; the first time both events were celebrated on the same day. Students were able to learn more about cultural and social contributions to society by African and Chinese Americans. See pages 5 and 7 for more VVES events.

Checking Account Survey Finds Few Low-Cost Banking Options

In an era where banking customers face fewer options and ever-increasing fees, Consumer Action's annual survey of California checking accounts found only nine banks and savings institutions offering accounts with monthly fees of four dollars or less.

"Bank takeovers and consolidations have significantly limited the choices available to consumers," explained CA Executive Director Ken McElowney. "Only about one-third of the 24 banks and savings institutions responding to our survey offered a low-cost checking option."

Compiled by CA's Credit and Finance Project (CFP), the survey includes information on more than 90 accounts at 24 banks and savings institutions, and 13 credit unions, current through last October.

CFP was started last June to promote access to banking services in communities excluded from the mainstream economic system. One of its goals is to educate people about benefits of bank accounts. CFP hopes to reach people who cash more than \$150 per month at check cashing outlets - which charge up to three percent of the check's face value - to show them how to save money with a low-cost bank account.

CA found checking accounts for \$4 or less per month at: Alameda bank (\$2.50); Bank of America (\$3.50); Downey Savings (\$4); First Public Savings Bank (\$3); Northbay Savings Bank (accounts with fees of \$3 and \$4); Placer Savings and Loan (\$1); Sanwa Bank California (\$4); Sumitomo Bank (\$3); and U.S. Bank (\$4). Terms on these accounts vary and a few have special requirements, such as a limit on the number of checks per month.

Anna Alvarez Boyd, director of the CFP, reminds consumers that they can avoid paying monthly fees altogether by opening an account that does not charge fees until the balance drops below a minimum or average amount.

More than 50 such accounts are listed in the survey.

CA also found a wide range of monthly fees and balance requirements. For no-interest accounts with unavoidable fees, Placer Savings and Loan had the lowest at \$1 per month, while several others were as high as \$8. Balances to avoid fees on interest-bearing accounts ranged from a low of \$100 at Bay View Federal Bank to a high of \$5,000 at San Francisco Federal.

Also included in the survey is helpful information on branch locations, choosing an account, writing checks and identification needed to open accounts. Eleven special accounts for senior citizens were found, as well as several for people with low incomes or disabilities. Some do not have a monthly fee.

For a free copy of CA's survey, send a self-addressed, stamped (52 cents) envelope to: Consumer Action Checking Accounts, 116 New Montgomery St., Suite 233, San Francisco, CA 94105.

RIDES Commuters Can Win a Grand Prize

Earth Day is a great time to try a less polluting commute, and RIDES for Bay Area Commuters is adding an extra incentive for local residents to try carpooling or vanpooling to work.

Commuters who call RIDES at 1-800-755-POOL before Earth day, April 22, will be eligible to win an earth-friendly prize: a \$1,000 gift certificate to the winner's favorite hike or outdoor-gear store, courtesy of PG&E.

RIDES, the regional rideshare agency, provides free help to commuters who want to join or start carpools and vanpools through a service called ridematching. Commuters who call RIDES' toll-free number can receive a list of names and phone numbers of neighbors who

Men of St. James Presbyterian Church Added to Task Force

Three parishoners from St. James Presbyterian Church were appointed by Mayor Frank Jordan to a special Visitation Valley task force designed to have an impact on politics and decision-making at City Hall. Men of St. James President Gerry Galvan, John King, and the Rev. Dr. Jerry O. Resus joined the group for its initial meeting held at the Visitation Valley Senior Center February 22 where they were briefed by Anthony Lincoln, Gwen Henry and Ted Dientsfey of the Mayor's Office.

Disposition of Geneva Towers and the Sunnydale housing project were discussed lengthily March 1 with Regional Housing Commissioner Art Agnos, where the former mayor explained the federal government has spent almost \$8 million since the HUD takeover of the Towers June 6, 1991.

Agnos gave the task force 90 days to "come up with the product" his agency and he could present to the HUD secretary in Washington, D.C., a prerequisite for the \$110 million tentatively allocated for demolition and replacement of both Geneva Towers and the Sunnydale housing units.

Realizing the task force had little time to act, Henry pressed for a weekly meeting, and bi-weekly sessions with the community to get input from local residents.

One clue signalling an active and fiscally-oriented task force was the numerous amount of questions heaped on both Lincoln and Henry during the meeting's question and answer period.

Task force members also conveyed their group should also receive the same funding City Hall has reportedly been giving task forces in other neighborhoods.

New Exploratorium Attraction a Window For Development

Already famous for its appeal to both children and adults, PlaySquare is a new permanent feature and exhibit at the Exploratorium, located in the Palace of Fine Arts, giving visitors the opportunity to watch stages of early childhood unfold while witnessing the importance of play.

Directed by an expert in childhood development, the 700-foot PlaySquare is designed to challenge different aspects of a child's abilities. There is a climbing structure for teaching large motor skills - everything from the first steps to complex acrobatics; a role playing area where children can exercise their imaginations and social skills, and an area for infants where they can explore and play with mirrors and toys, as well as a sensory area for experimenting with different textures and mediums.

PlaySquare marks an expansion for the museum as the Exploratorium begins to investigate ways for parents to engage and observe their very young children in play and learning activities, while helping to facilitate, guide and interpret those early encounters that become the building blocks for a lifetime of investigation.

want to share a ride. RIDES provides additional help to those who want to become vanpool drivers.

Carpooling and vanpooling can save commuters considerable time and money, while helping reduce pollution and save energy. Motor vehicles account for almost half of the Bay Area's daily dose of man-made hydrocarbon emissions, and they produce about half of the ozone pollution and 70 percent of the carbon monoxide pollution in the Bay Area.

Over the last 16 years, RIDES estimates its customers have conserved nearly 100 million gallons of fuel and prevented more than 46,000 tons of pollutants from being emitted into our atmosphere.

Community Center Again Slated For Youth Employment Program

Visitation Valley Community Center has again been recommended by the Private Industry Council to be funded as the CBO for the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (SYETP) for this area. If given final approval, VVCC will be granted enough funds to place 84 youth in summer jobs.

Certification is slated to begin in April, just as soon as the contract between PIC and VVCC is signed.

Visitation Valley youth needing a summer job can call or visit Brenda Haynes at 50 Raymond Ave. or call 467-6400. Applications should be filed early for best chances at the limited job slots, which are expected to have a long waiting list.

If the SYETP is not for you, or you are on the waiting list, why not try the Ready for Work Program, a job readiness agenda for youth ages 14 to 18 with counseling, mentorships and internships. For information on Ready for Work, call Sadie White at 467-6400.

For youth younger than 14, there is a Job Club Program where members design, plan and run their own small business. Kids have a great time and a chance to make a little money, too. Job Club counselor for VVCC is Dede Hewitt, who can be reached by leaving a message at 467-6400. Job Club is also available at YCD, 1715 Yosemite Ave. and SFES at 1601 Lane St.

Visitation Valley Festival Returns With 10th Annual Celebration

An event fun for all ages, the 10th annual Visitation Valley Festival May 21 will feature live entertainment, rides for kids, great food, crafts, an art show, games and general merriment.

Booth space can be reserved by calling the Visitation Valley Community Center at 467-6400 and asking to receive a registration packet. Regularly \$20, booths for Visitation Valley residents and those living in the 94134 area receive a 50 percent discount.

Volunteers are again needed to ensure success of the Saturday festival, running from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and are encouraged to call the center as soon as possible. "We'll be so glad

to hear from you," said VVCC Director Julie Kavanagh, "and we always have a ball on fair day. So please come and join the fun."

Entries are now being accepted for the accompanying Art Show, with prizes for each category - painting, ceramic, fabric art, youth art and others - receiving \$100 for first place in each class. There is a \$5 entry fee, or \$2.50 for 94134 residents, for each work of art.

Look for the Ferris wheel on Raymond Ave. near Bayshore Blvd., the place to celebrate the coming of summer vacation with your neighbors. Come to the Fair!

Food Bank Offers a Full Plate Program

San Francisco Food Bank has launched a new program for clients who are in transition from chronic-assistance programs to independent living situations. A Full Plate combines nutrition education, food assistance, home economic budget skills, an intensive care management to help families break from the cycle of poverty and acquire the necessary resources and skills to become self-sufficient.

St. Anthony Foundation in the Tenderloin became the first site chosen for the program, with case managers both from there and Travelers Aid identifying 40 participating families. Trained volunteers conduct monthly meetings to discuss budgetary issues and nutritional information with participants, who will also meet regularly with caseworkers from the referring

agency while receiving periodic food supplies from the Food Bank.

Client services will also be mainstreamed to ensure participants take advantage of all existing support programs.

A Full Plate will take an individualized approach to working with families, as program volunteers, staff and nutritionists gauge each individual's food, nutritional and counseling needs by working with small amounts of clients at a time. A client who is the head of a household and responsible for the care of young children may be allocated a different amount of food and assistance than a single person.

Case workers from the referral agencies will also work directly with program staff to ensure their clients' needs are being addressed. Additional program sites are projected to open within the next few months.

America Walks to Save Nation's Infants

Every three-and-a-half minutes in America, a baby is born with birth defects. And every day 100 U.S. babies die, a higher rate of infant mortality than 23 other nations.

But Bay Area residents can help save America's babies by joining the March of Dimes WalkAmerica 1994, the oldest, biggest and most successful walking event in the country - more than 850,000 walkers in 1,450 communities nationwide - on April 23.

WalkAmerica will begin at 9 a.m. at six Bay Area locations - Oakland, Fremont, Pleasanton, San Mateo and Walnut Creek, as well as in San Francisco, with registration beginning at 8 a.m. at the Great Meadow in Fort Mason, at Bay and Laguna Sts.

Last year more than 4,000 walkers throughout the Bay Area raised \$650,000 to support the March of Dimes and its Campaign for Healthier Babies. Funds helped support

ongoing local programs, including prenatal care for chemically dependant women in Oakland and San Francisco; Babies and You, a work-site prenatal health care program; and health education programs for Spanish-speaking women throughout the area.

"WalkAmerica gives everyone in the Bay Area the opportunity to support programs that ensure all pregnant women get health care they need so that their babies will be born healthy," said Rick Kopf, managing principal of the Fremont group and chairman of the Bay Area-wide event.

Bonds Sold to Finance Various College Projects

State Treasurer Kathleen Brown announced the sale of \$83 million in state Public Works Board bonds to finance various construction projects in several districts of the California Community College system, saying the bonds will help create jobs and provide needed educational facilities.

Garnering a favorable 5.97 percent average interest rate, the bonds were sold for eight different projects at two-year campuses in San Francisco, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Mateo, Sonoma and Ventura counties.

Locally, \$20 million will go toward the construction of a new library at San Francisco City College, which should be completed in September, 1995.

"The California Community College system is playing an increasingly vital role in preparing our citizens for the changing job market," explained Brown. "This sale not only provides community colleges with funds needed to build quality educational facilities at a reasonable cost and prepare students for the 21st century, but in doing so, provides jobs needed for our still struggling economy."

Libraries Change Lives

Librarians are in the business of answering questions, but during National Library Week, April 17 through 23, the San Francisco Public Library will be asking people of all ages to write in 100 words or less how libraries have made a difference in their lives.

Libraries change lives, shape lives - even save lives. It happens every day. Millions of people of all ages and backgrounds turn to the nation's libraries to help them learn, grow and achieve their dreams.

Last year, the American Library Association received more than 10,000 letters and 45,000 statements in support of the life-changing power of libraries. Forms for the campaign are available at all public libraries in the City. Call 557-4277 for more information.

Who's Hungry?

There is a move afoot to eliminate the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), a federal program known to some as "Cheez Day." You might remember that "Cheez Day" was started by Ronald Reagan several years ago to help feed the hungry and help farmers utilize their surplus crops.

In recent years, the amount of food available to residents of American cities has declined as our government tried to supply food to war-torn places such as Bosnia and the Middle East. When we look at the evening news on TV, we can't help feel that those starving, suffering souls need food far more than you or me. Yet there are people in our own communities who are just as hungry and in just as much need; only it doesn't show because no one is taking pictures here, and there are no bombs or guns to underscore the need.

TEFAP has been out of cheese for quite some time now, but has been able to provide other nourishing food such as peanut butter, flour, corn meal, canned meats and other staples to thousands of people in our neighborhood who are below the poverty line.

Not too long ago, someone said "When I saw those poor people on TV this morning, I thought that we do not need the food like they do." Well, perhaps the only thing keeping some of our neighbors from looking like the people on TV is the TEFAP program.

How do we know? We don't! Only YOU can know what your life is like and what you truly need. What WE need is to hear from you if you truly need the food help programs. You must let the U.S. Congress and Senate know, right away!

You may write to the following people: Honorable Jim Sasser, Chairman, Budget Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Ranking Member, Budget Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; Honorable Barbara Boxer, Member, Budget Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Member, Appropriations Committee, United States Senate, Wash-

ington, D.C. 20510; Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Member, Appropriations Committee, House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20515; and Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman, Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. Tell them how you feel about the loss of the Food Program and what its loss will mean to you and your family.

It is true that other people in the world are suffering, dying of hunger and need our help. But it is also true there are many right here in California dying of hunger as well. Hungry people everywhere need our help! Let's hope an equitable solution to the problem of world hunger can start right here in the good old U.S.A.

P.S. If you'd like to share your letters with the Grapevine, we'd be happy to print them.

"Break a Leg" Department

Two terrific entertainments are being produced by members of the Valley's extended family, and we'd like to wish the best to them and all their colleagues in their efforts.

Shelley Tatum is working with Bill Graham Presents and Bay Area Productions on "Lawd Ha' Mercy," a divinely hilarious musical comedy that opened March 30 at the Paramount Theatre in Oakland, running through April 3. Starring Morris Day, Jerome Benton and David Whitfield, the play is a story of a small town gospel sensation getting discovered by two very flashy record producers who take her to Chicago to find fame and fortune. What happens to her after that is something to behold, a story delivering a message of hope and restoration.

Shelley, the son of Carol Tatum and nephew of LaVaughn King, grew up in the Valley. Good luck, Shelley!

Donald Lacy and Tony Spires have both written and are producing "Evolution of the Soul Brother," assisted by Larry Chew and Rhonda L. Law. This comedy, running April 8, 9 and 10 at the Center for the Arts Theatre on Howard and Third Sts. is a comical and satirical look at the crazy and unorthodox way the soul brothers deal with women, their world and how they respond to the roles in which they have been cast by society.

Donald Lacy was the director of the

Theatre Group for Kids at VVCC a few years ago and has been actively involved with the African American Cultural Center and many other local projects. Larry Chew did a short stint at VVCC as the Job Club coordinator and has long been president of the OMI Community Association and many other community involvements. Good luck guys!

Mourning a Loss of Friends

At rest in March 1994 - Nofualuma Tuiaosopo. She was beloved by many in Visitation Valley and in the Samoan community citywide. Luma was a long time activist, a member of the Samoa mo Samoa, and a past member of the Visitation Valley Community Center Board of Directors. She held many positions of honor under several past San Francisco mayors. We'll all miss her greatly.

On March 19, 1994, the community lost a rising star. Sulu Palega, Jr. was shot and killed while on a church outing in Modesto.

Junior Palega was loved by his family, friends and associates who all are devastated. No one knows how or why this terrible thing happened to the 21-year-old Palega.

Ironically, Junior's father, Sulu Palega Senior has been extremely active in the community for years, fighting against street violence and for the well-being of youth in a productive and effective career going way back to the "Mission Rebel" days.

All the neighbors here in Visitation Valley will be thinking of the Palega family in the terrible days ahead, and hoping peace of mind for them...and for all who loved Junior Palega.

Welcome Captain Dower

Our neighborhood welcomes the new commander of Ingleside Station, Captain Michael Dower who began his tour of duty March 24. We hope Capt. Dower will feel good about working with all segments of the community, and that he will make himself and his officers available to everyone wishing to improve the quality of life in Visitation Valley.

This neighborhood is definitely a challenge, what with a split right down the middle of police districts - half in Potrero and half in Ingleside. We look forward to helping Capt. Dower get to know and work positively with our neighbors in any way we can.

City Center is an intergenerational facility.

My closing words are: we need to expand these services throughout the City. Communication and collaboration on a citywide level between all youth and family-serving agencies would alleviate the majority of problems our children and families face today. I feel it is appropriate at this time to commend the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Families (MOOCYF) on the vision they have in making fragmented child services a thing of the past.

I feel compelled to say that the MOOCYF, headed by an African-American male like myself, has funded all of the aforementioned programs and more, and has initiated the collaboration efforts to improve the quality of life for the children and their families in this city in which I was born and raised. This is excellent, but again, we need to expand on these services.

Resident Council Prefers Demolition Of Geneva Towers

Members of the Geneva Towers Resident Council spent many hours thinking about HUD's six housing options and listening to comments in the buildings' lobbies and elevators. Here are some of the thoughts:

*Geneva Towers cannot be completely renovated. The buildings are rotten to the core.

*People should not live in a building more than four stories tall. Right now there are families living on the 15th floor. When their children are playing in the courtyard, they are five city blocks away from their mothers or grandmothers.

*Senior citizens should not live in highrises either. Even the newest elevators break down. That means residents would still have to climb lots of stairs.

*Old people should be integrated, not segregated. Grandparents take care of children when their parents work. Seniors teach children about life. Young people learn from their elders.

*Some people want to live in San Francisco.

NEWS TIPS? CALENDAR ITEMS? All submissions should be in by the 20th of month prior to publication.

GRAPEVINE MAILBOX

Parks Coalition

Editor:

I am writing to introduce you to a group called Advocates for Recreation and Park (ARP), a coalition of volunteer organizations, non-profit groups, business leaders, foundations, neighborhood groups and individuals. This group has formed to represent to San Francisco's elected leaders the vital importance of our city's parks, open spaces and recreational programs to the lives of its citizens. We believe every person who lives, works or visits San Francisco is affected by facilities, programs and parks maintained by S.F. Rec. and Park.

At this time, the Department has been asked to submit two versions of its budget for the next fiscal year: one to maintain the current level of funding and one with \$800,000 in cuts. Given the financial difficulties facing the City, ARP would applaud a budget maintaining the current level of recreation programs and park maintenance.

However, if past history shows anything, the Department is in danger of receiving last-minute, drastic budget hits sometime in May. The department cannot take this kind of hit and maintain existing programs. Something will have to give - whether it be the pools, the gyms, park maintenance or what have you, somebody's programs will have to go.

In past years, each individual organization or program fought for its own survival. This year, we have decided it's vital to the City that we unite and fight the Department as a whole. This is why groups such as the Golden Gate Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, Friends of Recreation and Park, Friends of the Sharon Art Studio, the Aquatics Advisory Board, Moscone Playground and other groups too numerous to mention have come together to become Advocates for Recreation and Park.

We are a completely independent, grass-roots organization. We work with the Department, not for it. Mary Burus, general manager of the Department, and Phil Arnold have been invaluable in assisting us with information, but each step taken by Advocates is discussed and approved by the coalition members.

We invite you to the next ARP meeting to be held Saturday, April 9 at 10 a.m. in the Sharon Arts Studio, located next to the Children's Playground in Golden Gate Park. Should you need further directions or have questions, please feel free to call me at 433-4150.

Donna M. Blow

State Budget Woes

Editor:

As you may know, Governor Wilson's proposed 1994-95 budget will negatively impact many programs that serve seniors in our community. The elimination of nine Medi-Cal optional benefits, including podiatry and adult dental care in addition to possible cutbacks in the SSI/SSP program, should the Governor not receive \$25.9 million in anticipated federal funds, is only the tip of the iceberg. The most detrimental aspect of the Governor's budget is his

proposal to restructure the state/local fiscal partnership.

The Governor is proposing to shift financial responsibility for senior programs such as In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) from state control to the counties. Although a percentage of the sales and property tax revenues would be transferred to help pay for these programs, in times of economic recession, these funding sources decrease significantly while program caseloads continue to increase. With the state no longer responsible for funding these programs, cash-strapped and bankrupt counties will be forced to find the necessary monies or drastically cut services.

Following is a brief overview of the effects of the Governor's restructuring proposal on seniors:

*IHSS: Family Member Service Providers: The Governor is proposing to receive financing for the IHSS program from Medicaid, which currently does not reimburse for the use of certain family providers. Although Wilson is seeking a federal law change to require Medicaid to reimburse counties for the cost of paying family providers, the chances of this occurring are slim. If this change in federal law is not approved, the Governor is silent as to where the \$46.2 million - the amount now spent to pay family member providers - will come from. It is safe to assume that counties either would have to find additional monies to continue funding family providers, or would have to severely limit IHSS services.

*Adult Protective Services: The Governor's proposal would shift the \$16.2 million Community Services Block Grant, the main funding source for APS, to local government. Shifting the block grant could mean that counties could use these monies to fund a wide range of other social services and health programs. In fact, the greatest danger of the restructuring proposal is the likelihood that scarce dollars will pit senior programs against those for children, the mentally indigent and the mentally ill. Since Adult Protective Services are not considered entitlement programs that must be provided by the county, the program becomes vulnerable to budget cuts.

Although the Governor's May revision of his budget will reflect changes in state revenue expectations, it is clear that this year promises to be a difficult one for many Californians and for seniors in particular. I urge you to contact the Governor at (415) 703-2218 to express your concerns regarding his state/local restructuring proposal. Peace and friendship, John John Burton, Member of Assembly, 12th District

Brown Honors Woman

Assembly Speaker Willie Brown recently honored San Francisco resident Gloria Davis, acting executive director of Public Advocates, Inc., as the "Woman of the Year" from his Assembly district. Davis, who also advises the CEO of Mobley Associates on matters of education and cultural diversity, received a resolution during a ceremony at the State Capitol.

"Gloria has consistently demonstrated her extraordinary abilities with children and a solid commitment to San Francisco," said Brown.

Beautiful Black Baby Photo Party!!

A Mother's Day Celebration!

Bring your beautiful baby for a free photo and frame!

All babies will get a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate!

(Babies from birth through age 3 are eligible.)

Date: Friday, May 6, 1994

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Bayview Opera House
4705 Third Street
(near Newcomb and Oakdale)
(Muni bus #15, #23, #24, #44 or #54.)



The Black Infant Health Improvement Project is sponsoring this event as a part of a community awareness campaign to "Save the Babies, Save Our Future"

S.F. Department of Public Health, Perinatal Services, Black Infant Health Improvement Project
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GRAPEVINE
VISITACION VALLEY

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Even under the best of conditions, food production for hundreds of millions of Americans - and billions more around the globe - can take a toll on the environment. Erosion can claim precious topsoil, farm chemicals sometimes pollute streams, rivers and ground water supplies; livestock can deplete grazing lands; and American wetlands and other sensitive habitats sometimes get plowed under for use as farmland. In the world's tropical forests, where an estimated 90 percent of the world's species exist, poor farmers fell trees in order to provide food and a living for their families.

By improving many aspects of modern agriculture, biotechnology can help alleviate many of these pressures on the land, both by preserving natural resources and reducing environmental stresses.

PESTS AND DISEASES

To protect against insect damage, and minimize the amount of chemicals sprayed on crop plants, biotech has modified crop plants to protect themselves against insects, rather than rely solely on surface application of pesticides.

Specifically, researchers have transferred into tomato, potato, corn, eggplant and cotton plants different genes producing natural proteins that kill specific insects after they take a bite of the modified plants.

DISEASE RESISTANCE

Plant viruses of varying kinds often claim up to 80 percent of many crops.

In much the same way vaccines immunize humans against various diseases, biotech allows modern breeders to insert small fragments of plant viruses into crop plants, which develop natural protection or immunity against those viral diseases. The immunity is passed on to future generations of plants.

GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

*Growers will only need to plant one or two acres - instead of five - to ensure one acre's worth of harvest, meaning far fewer agricultural inputs like fuel, labor, water and fertilizer.

*Chemical sprays required to kill aphids that transport most viruses would be reduced or eliminated.

*Viral protection for plants will reach growers of canteloupes, watermelons, cucumbers, potatoes, tomatoes, lettuce and alfalfa by the year 2000. These crops, together with vi-



ral resistance, will reduce chemical use in the farming environment, along with the scaling back of other agricultural inputs unused with fewer acres to plant.

REDUCING CHEMICAL STRESS

Like any products sold in highly competitive markets, today's fungicides, herbicides, insecticides and pesticides are better, safer and more environmentally sensitive than older versions. Even so, they sometimes pollute the air, soil and ground water when blown or washed from plants.

Farmers recognize that healthy growing environments define their future and always seek better ways to control weeds with the least toxic herbicides available that do not damage food crops. It makes good, common sense - not to mention environmental and economical sense - for farmers to choose the chemical product that works best and is safest.

It will take years before biotechnology reveals enough secrets to develop non-chemical alternatives to perform as farm chemicals do now. Therefore, today's crop plants should work in concert with the best farm chemicals to require less volume or fewer applications.

Biotech has already made possible crop plants that withstand specific farm chemicals while all the weeds around them die. These crops include corn, canola, cotton, soybeans, and some vegetables and fruits. Farmers get better yields, farm environments endure less stress and all of us enjoy food grown with the judicious use of agricultural chemicals.

SAVING VALUABLE TOPSOIL

Erosion of topsoil due to wind and water can be cut by more than 70 percent - in some cases up to 98 percent - when farmers use no-till techniques, meaning they do not plow under weeds after harvesting or before planting. Eager to protect their most im-

portant asset - the soil - American farmers have flocked to no-till farming, with committed acres nearly doubling since 1989, reaching some 28 million in 1992 and about 35 million last year. No-till increases the need for environmentally sensitive herbicides, as weeds not getting plowed-under present a pernicious problem. By making big crops like corn, soybeans and others tolerant of today's best herbicides, biotech breeders offer three vital benefits:

*They will increase the total number of acres committed to no-till practices, thus further cutting erosion's toll on America's topsoil.

*Farmers will save money because of less equipment, fuel and labor costs - even with the additional cost of herbicides.

*USDA studies have shown that no-till practices reduce the amount of farm chemical runoff because the crop residues trap chemicals that might otherwise spread.

Breeders also seek to improve the situation by breeding crop plants that thrive on no-till settings. This includes plants that yield more to maximize production on cultivated land and lessen the need to put additional land into production.

FEEDSTOCK EFFICIENCY

Up to 60 percent of American corn and soybean crops are eaten each year by farm animals that become the meat on our dinner plates. Anything that makes animals better able to digest their food will diminish the overall need for feed, without diminishing the overall productivity of the animals. A natural protein from dairy cows, bovine somatotropin, can be given in supplemental doses, which allows the treated cows to absorb more nutrients from their feed, thus producing the same amount of milk from less feed. Developments like these promise to:

*Reduce overall amounts of feed necessary to produce similar yields;

*Reduce the amount of grazing lands needed;

*Reduce water used by livestock and for livestock feed; and

*Free-up acres used to produce livestock feed for other crops or uses.

THE NITROGEN BURDEN

Even though our atmosphere contains about 78 percent nitrogen, most crops have no mechanism to use this natural element. Farmers must therefore depend on added fertilizers to

provide the nitrogen necessary to boost crop yields.

Crops only use half of the more than 60 million pound of fertilizer added to them each year, with the excess nitrogen environmentally dangerous to soil and water. Growers have long recognized and used the innate abilities of legumes like soybeans to "fix" nitrogen - using the natural nitrogen in the soil and air - leaving harvested soils replenished with nitrogen. Breeders would love to develop other crop plants that can fix their own nitrogen.

In order to mimic something, you must first understand it. And biotech has given breeders the tools they need to understand exactly how crops take up and use nitrogen. Efficiency of nitrogen intake and use rank high on many biotech target lists in many countries. Keep in mind, self-fixing plants remain enticing dreams for the next century. Should breeders succeed in creating them, they would:

*Allow farmers to decrease their use of synthetic fertilizers while maintaining bountiful yields;

*Result in less nitrogen from fertilizers being left to degrade in the soil and ground water; and

*Greatly enhance productivity in many regions of the developing world whose farmers cannot afford nitrogen fertilizers.

FORESTRY

Trees take decades to reproduce and mature, too long a time for breeders to do much with traditional breeding techniques. New techniques have already shortened certain tree breeding cycles to months, which has resulted in four to six-fold increases in the yields of some rubber, cocoa, teak and pulpwood trees. This means less stress on naturally occurring trees, which is good for the world's forest environments. Biotech is also helping forest preservation in other ways.

*American breeders have already protected the Dutch elm tree from Dutch elm tree disease and the American chestnut tree from chestnut blight, making many shade lovers much happier and adding important defense diversity to American trees.

*In Brazil, a eucalyptus plantation has enjoyed a 112 percent yield increase since it began employing modern cloning techniques in the 1980s; a genetically-enhanced Brazilian yellow pine tree can now produce 50 cubic meters of wood per year, while the

average remains about 15 cubic meters.

*Seventy-five percent of 125 medicinal compounds used in drugs today came from plants, animals and trees in the world's rain forests. By enabling scientists to identify the actual genes responsible for these compounds, the forests the came from can be protected because of their enhanced value.

*Also, because most genes can be spliced into bacteria and their products harvested from fermentation vats, instead of pristine forests, the threat to valuable trees in sensitive forests can be diminished. Taxol from the bark of yew trees often found in old growth forests in America's northwest can now be produced in cell labs, opening a possibility next century that no trees need fall to produce this effective fighter of breast and ovarian cancers.

Through genetic modification, tree breeders seek trees that produce higher-quality wood and better tolerate disease, insects and poor soil conditions. By increasing the productivity of commercial tree farms, biotech can help lessen the need for commercial cutting in rain forests and parks around the world.

PLANT BIODIVERSITY

Of the more than 80,000 species of edible plants known to exist, humans

See Page 8

FIVE YEARS AGO IN THE GRAPEVINE

APRIL 1989

*Crosswalks and stop signs for several busy Visitation Valley intersections were major concerns in questions asked San Francisco Department of Public Works Director Richard J. Evans.

*San Francisco City Attorney Louise Renne visited the John King Senior Center. She had previously assisted the center in negotiating use of McLaren Park land as a fruit and vegetable garden.

*Representatives from neighborhoods of Visitation Valley, Little Hollywood, Bayhill and Bayview told the S.F. DPW committee S.F. Rec and Park wasn't progressing to their satisfaction in a traffic study to help residents living adjacent to Candlestick Park.

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Joyce Hollins & Staff

Wolves Returning to Yellowstone Park

By Bill Clark
Gray wolves will soon range across the rugged landscapes of Yellowstone National Park, lurking in the forests and racing along the alpine meadows, reclaiming their rightful place with the greatest park of the American West. This reintroduction effort, conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is an important step in redefining the nation's relations within wildlife.



Just a few decades ago, federal agencies were engaged in a brutal campaign where the wolves of Yellowstone were hunted, poisoned and trapped to extinction. At urgings of powerful cattle barons who were already reaping enormous profits by leasing cheap public land for raising beef cattle, wolves were systematically and utterly eliminated.

Since that horrible bloodletting, a change of heart has been based mostly on two key concepts: realization that it

is ethically wrong to force any wild species into extinction, as the U.S. has now invested considerable energy and finances in preventing the extinction of species; and new concepts of biology that view wolves and other carnivores as beneficial - even vital - to the overall health and integrity of ecosystems where they naturally occur.

Myths and fairy tales from Red Riding Hood to the Three Little Pigs have been dispelled. And we now are preparing to celebrate our own enlightenment by righting the wrong and restoring wolves to their ancient habitats.

USFWS plans are actually much more ambitious than merely restoring wolves to Yellowstone. Although the largest park of the West and a key focus of the reintroduction project, plans call for the return of wolves across all of Wyoming and Idaho, plus a large part of Montana. From there, the far-ranging canids may be expected to recolonize suitable habitats up and down the Rocky Mountains - just as they had in former times before being persecuted with strychnine, firearms and steel-jaw traps.

But the project is not without opposition. Acceptance of wolves as legitimate elements of the western landscape is still hotly contested by a minority of Americans, especially ranchers who are unwilling to share benefits of the mostly public land which they still lease at very cheap rates from the government.

In formal comments to USFWS, Friends of Animals (FoA) has expressed concern over short and long term risks associated with wolf reintroductions to the West. Short-term risks involve possibility that some ranchers may simply reject the presence of wild wolves, taking matters into their own hands by "varmint" hunting.

To counter this, FoA has recommended a number of specific steps the government can take. Managing reintroductions to minimize potential of wolves even entering livestock areas is

an important step. This can be done by reintroducing only wolf packs with documented preference for wild prey, such as elk and deer, rather than cattle and sheep.

Various other techniques can also be used to encourage at least ritual packs of wolves to remain deep within the protective borders of the national park. When occasional wolves do wander out of the park and pose a threat to livestock, FoA has recommended that government wildlife biologists capture those wolves and relocate them to remote regions far from ranching operations.

When ranchers make any effort to harm wolves, FoA recommends swift and effective legal action. Poaching must not be tolerated, even when an isolated incident.

By taking special efforts to keep wolves away from livestock, and ranchers away from wolves, USFWS can prevent many conflicts before they have an opportunity to occur. Such efforts will be extremely important in the short-term perspective of the first few years when wolf populations will be small, fragile and only beginning to re-establish themselves.

Emphasis for long-term wolf protection will have to shift. Education needs to help the children of today's ranchers from carrying the prejudices of their parents into ranch management strategies of the future.

Ideally, FoA would like to see ranches become redundant because of a universal rejection of meat. But practically, it is unlikely the vegetarian ethic will make this much progress in the coming decades. Thus, a *modus vivendi* must be found - an accommodation through which wolves and ranchers can share the same landscape without serious hostility.

Guard dog projects, compensation programs, educational efforts and other initiatives can all contribute to tolerance and coexistence for many decades to come.

Besides risking conflict with ranchers, wolf reintroduction may also be hindered by innocent outdoor enthusiasts hiking into the Yellowstone back country and accidentally disrupting denning and other activities important to the success of the project.

To avoid these risks, FoA has recommended USFWS take precautions with radio collars and close monitoring. Wolves, like their close relative, the domestic dog, accept collars easily and encounter no serious difficulties

wearing them. When the monitoring confirms the wolves are digging a den, enforcement authorities must move quickly to protect the den site by closing the area - including roads passing nearby - and providing constant ranger patrols to intercept any intruders.

Vigorous protection of dens and other places important to the reproductive success and social cohesiveness of the wolf packs - especially through the first several years of reintroduction - will do much to ensure success of this project with appealing rewards. Financially, USFWS studies predict a \$7 to \$12 million annual boost in the economies of communities in the reintroduction areas, coming mostly from tourism increases generated by the presence of wolves. People will visit with only the slightest chance of a fleeting glimpse of these elusive predators, or hearing them howl into the night.

Wolves are also important to the ecological and evolutionary health of their habitats. As large predators, they hunt and eliminate weak, crippled and infirm prey animals such as elk, bison and caribou, making surviving herds more vigorous. A prime mechanism for millions of years, disrupted only decades ago by their extermination, reintroduced wolves will assure "survival of the fittest" elk, bison, deer and other herbivores. This means only the "fittest" herbivores - the ones healthy enough, sensitive enough and smart enough to avoid predation - will survive to reproduce offspring.

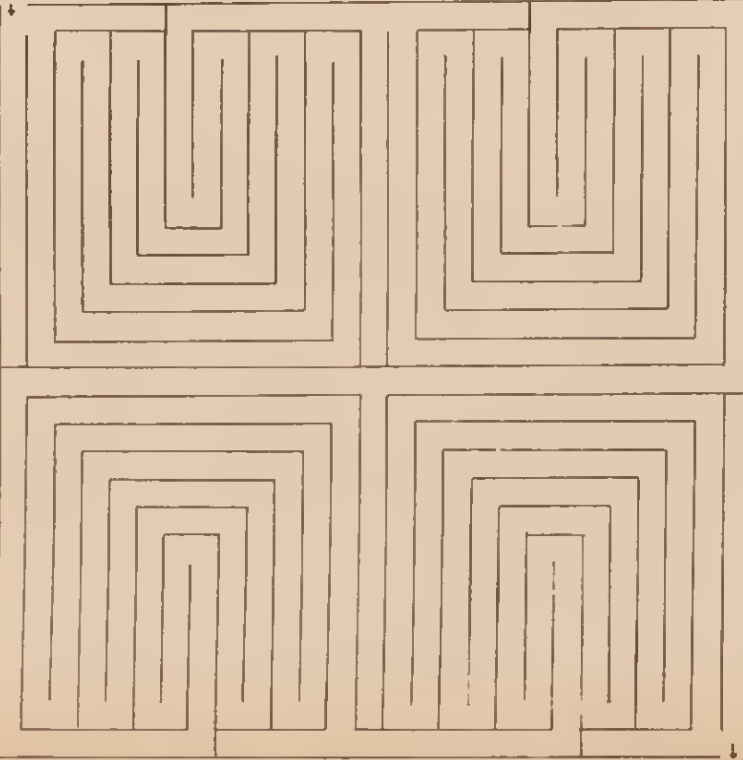
And with a well "selected" parent generation, the offspring generation is even more likely to be "fit" - the elk will be more healthy, the bison will be more sensitive and the deer will be smarter - and such is the evolutionary process which has guided life on earth from its dim beginnings.

Reintroducing wolves will also enhance our own self-respect. Humanity today has the power to determine the fate of many other animal species. Too often in the past, that power has been abused - and the tragic extermination of wolves throughout the West is a telling example.

But this power will also be applied with both technical skill and moral imperative to reintroduce gray wolves, planned for this October; a gesture to nature we must support, encourage and celebrate.

from Action Line, Friends of Animals magazine

Minute Maze



Arthritis Foundation Rounding-Up Autos

If you are planning to sell your used vehicle, consider donating to the arthritis foundation. Avoid the hassle, liability and expense of advertising, answering phone calls and having strangers visit your home.

The Arthritis Foundation is seeking donations of used vehicles in good running condition and with no body damage. All donated vehicles are tax deductible based on their fair market value.

Your donation will benefit the Arthritis Foundation, the only national non-profit organization seeking the cause, prevention and cure for more than 100 forms of arthritis, while supporting extensive programs of research, education and patient services.

For more information, call the Arthritis Foundation, Northern California Chapter at 1-800-464-6240.

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Sweet Potatoes for a Hungrier World

To most Americans, sweet potatoes are not a staple food, although they are served in many traditional holiday meals. Most of us confuse true sweet potatoes with yams, which are a different plant entirely. Except in rare cases, those oddly shaped colorful tubers seen in supermarkets are sweet potatoes.

Although a major food focus for much of the world, sweet potatoes surprisingly rank second only to potatoes in world root or tuber crops, or crops grown underground. China's 100 million ton annual harvest - 80 percent of the sweet potatoes produced worldwide - prevents millions of Chinese from starving as wheat and rice crops often fall to diseases and weather.

Sweet potatoes are an excellent food source, high in carbohydrates and vitamin A. They're easy to grow - even in poor soils, tolerate droughts well, crowd-out weeds and stand up well against most pests. Once harvested, they can be stored underground for years and used only when needed, like a food savings account. In fact, this subterranean savings strategy gives Kenya and Uganda more stable food supplies than their northern neighbors. Somalia and Ethiopia, who depend on grains that do not store as well.

In Africa, the feathery mottle virus (FMV) usually ruins about two-thirds of the typical African farmer's sweet potato harvest. Just as many other viruses around the world, FMV gets ferried about the African countryside by ubiquitous small insects called aphids. But unlike their counterparts in the developed world, most African farmers cannot afford chemical sprays that might control aphids spreading FMV.

Imagine the impact if those farmers could protect their sweet potato crops from FMV without having to invest in the aphid-killing chemicals that would cost more than many of them earn in a year.

Dr. Florence Wambugu, a plant pathologist from Kenya, is well on her way to applying similar techniques to sweet potatoes that American plant breeders developed to make crook-neck squash virus-resistant. Wambugu is working to protect 20 African varieties of sweet potatoes, while most Kenyan farmers must currently rely



on just two. Her work has been possible through sponsorship provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Monsanto Company Agricultural Group.

Like her American counterparts combating other crop viruses, Wambugu takes tiny portions of protein coats that surround all FMVs, then exposes African sweet potato plants to virus fragments. Once exposed, sweet potato plants develop their own resistance to the full FMV virus.

Wambugu's work is a small, but important step in the rapidly accelerating race between the world's exploding population and its ability to provide food. No one debates whether the world's population of 5.5 billion will double. The only question is, how fast? At current rates, 11 to 12 billion people will inhabit the earth by 2030, with another five to six billion people to feed in just a few decades.

Worldwatch Institute's recently released report, "Vital Signs 1993: The Trend That Will Shape Our Future," bluntly states world food production is no longer staying ahead of population growth. Both the National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society of London released a report in 1992 concluding: "If current predictions of population growth prove accurate and patterns of human activity on the planet remain unchanged, science and technology may not be able to prevent either irreversible degradation of the environment or poverty in much of the world."

Due in large to scientific advances in crop breeding and farming techniques, world food production has doubled since 1960, and productivity from agricultural land and water usage has tripled. Today, the world farms an area about the size of South America. Without the breeding and scientific advances of the last 30 years, a farmland area equivalent to the entire Western Hemisphere would be needed to produce today's world food supply.

Now, consider these facts together: five to six billion more people to feed, world food production leveling off and millions of subsistence farmers in the developing world cultivating fragile lands under primitive plows every day, trying to feed and provide for their families. According to the Rome-based U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization, for every acre of these fragile lands cultivated, another is lost to severe soil erosion.

Perhaps the greatest dilemma for decades ahead is not just how to feed the billions of additional people, but how to do so without destroying much of the planet in the process. Tropical

rainforests, wetlands and other vital habitat for most of the world's biological diversity will disappear even more rapidly unless something makes agriculture more productive and less taxing to the environment.

To feed the 700 million people who currently do not have adequate food supplies and the five billion-plus people who will join us, the world must literally triple food production without even doubling the number of cultivated areas, and achieve this with greater environmental conservation.

Just how can this be done? The answer almost certainly will include applications of agricultural biotechnology

Increasingly, agricultural researchers from countries such as Kenya, Chile, India, Malaysia, the Philippines - often with help from U.S. scientists - are developing tomorrow's varieties of crops that their countries need to starve off starvation.

Chinese scientists trained in the U.S. are becoming very advanced at transferring viral resistance to crops such as rice, potatoes, tomatoes and peppers, according to Dr. Roger Beachy of the Scripps Research Institute. In fact, China now has more acres committed to testing genetically-modified crops than the U.S. or any other country.

Some Americans may not know what mungbeans are, but millions of Asians consume them regularly. Indeed, the high-quality protein legume grows on more than 13.5 million acres throughout Asia. Using recently techniques developed in the U.S., crop specialists in Taiwan developed mungbeans that can repel bruchids, bugs that love to munch mungbean harvests in Asia, destroying crops just as virus-carrying aphids lay waste to sweet potato harvests in Africa.

This important step means a greater quantity of mungbeans for many Asians without a need for more chemicals to control bruchids, or expand mungbean acreage to make up what had been lost to insects.

Imagine you're a homesteader farming in the early American West, growing enough food to barely feed the ten families that rely on your fields for survival. Now imagine your production has been slipping in recent years because your land seems overtaxed while 10 more families will be added to your land in coming years - and you must provide for them without cultivating any more land. What would you do?

Once again, the world must literally triple food production by the year 2030 without even doubling the number of cultivated acres and with much greater environmental conservation.

It is as selfish as it is hopeless to imagine achieving this goal without all the Florence Wambugus the world can train pushing the engines of biotechnology to full capacity. Developing countries of the world need the benefits that modern biotechnology can bring.

When explaining her dedication in applying biotechnology to a Kenyan problem, Wambugu explained "This project is not an academic project. This project focuses on improving the lives of Africans so the children will have a future."

from International Food Information Council

Success for All at Little Vis



Nearly half of the first-graders' parents attended a books and breakfast event at Visitacion Valley Elementary School, learning to read with their children and helping them with comprehension using hand puppets. Conducted by Mrs. Wong, the reading facilitator, and translated into Chinese and Spanish, everyone attending the workshop received a story book to take home.



Principals and teachers from both Dr. Charles Drew and Sanchez Schools joined a breakfast workshop to observe the "Success-For-All" reading program working in the classrooms, a method they might implement at their schools in the fall.



Track Season Begins

After several weeks of warmups, the Billy Hutton Track Club begins regular meets in April, continuing through July with participation in the USAF Junior Olympic Nationals.

Having produced three national record holders, the club operates as a project of the Tides Foundation and provides Bay Area youth ages 7 to 18 with daily workouts and instruction, quality coaching, and competition in local, regional and national meets. No previous track experience is necessary and new members in the 7 to 10 age group are especially encouraged.

For more information about the club, call Director Lynda Hutton at 668-1329, or Coach Mike Kirunan at 952-6239

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

- 1: Lon Chaney (1883); Hans Conried (1915); Ali MacGraw (1938); Jane Powell (1926); Debbie Reynolds (1932); Otto von Bismark (1875); Max Von Sydow (1929); Sheb Wooley (1921)
- 2: Charlemagne (742); Buddy Ebsen (1908); Alec Guinness (1914); Emmylou Harris (1948); Clint Howard (1959); Harold Lloyd (1893); Jack Webb (1920)
- 3: Alec Baldwin (1958); Marlon Brando (1924); Dorris Day (1924); Ivan Dixon (1931); Gus Grissom (1926); George Jessel (1898); Eddie Murphy (1961); Wayne Newton (1942); Tony Orlando (1944)
- 4: Bea Benaderet (1906); Robert Downey, Jr. (1965); Arthur Murray (1895); John Cameron Swayze (1906)
- 5: Bette Davis (1908); Frank Gorshin (1934); Arthur Hakey (1920); Michael Moriarty (1942); Gregory Peck (1916); Gale Storm (1922); Spencer Tracy (1900); Booker T. Washington (1856)
- 6: Walter Huston (1884); Michelle Phillips (1944); Lowell Thomas (1892); Billie D. Williams (1937)
- 7: Francis Ford Coppola (1939); James Garner (1928); James Ian (1957); John Oates (1948); Wayne Rogers (1933); Ravi Shankar (1920); Bert Wheeler (1895); Walter Winchell (1897)
- 8: Betty Ford (1918); Shecky Greene (1926); Sonja Henie (1912); Edward Mulhane (1923); Mary Pickford (1893)

- 9: Ward Bond (1904); Hugh Hefner (1925); Nikolai Lenin (1870); Dennis Quaid (1954); Avery Schreiber (1935)
- 10: John Madden (1936); Harry Morgan (1915); Joseph Pulitzer (1847); Steven Segal (1951); Omar Sharif (1932)
- 11: Joel Grey (1932); Louise Lasser (1939); Cameron Mitchell (1918)
- 12: David Cassidy (1950); Henry Clay (1777); Herbie Hancock (1940); David Letterman (1947); Ann Miller (1918); Tiny Tim (1922); Jane Withers (1926)
- 13: Tony Dow (1945); Al Green (1946); John Hancock (1721); Thomas Jefferson (1743); Lyle Waggoner (1935)
- 14: Julie Christie (1940); Loretta Lynn (1932); Anthony Perkins (1932); Pete Rose (1942); Rod Steiger (1925)
- 15: Roy Clark (1922); Leonardo da Vinci (1452); Elizabeth Montgomery (1933); Peter Ustinov (1921)
- 16: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (1947); Edie Adams (1929); Charlie Chaplin (1889); Henry Mancini (1924); Dusty Springfield (1939); Bobby Vinton (1935)
- 17: William Holden (1918); Nikita Krushchev (1894); Arthur Lake (1905); Harry Reasoner (1923)
- 18: James Drury (1934); Barbara Hale (1922); Dorothy Lyman (1947); Pigmeat Markham (1904); Hayley Mills (1946); Rick Moranis (1953)
- 19: Don Adams (1926); Tim Curry (1946); Elinor Donahue (1937); Michael Learned (1929); Jayne Mansfield (1932); Dudley Moore (1935); Eliot Ness (1903); Hugh O'Brien (1930); Dick Sargent (1933)
- 20: Adolph Hitler (1889); Jessica Lange (1949); Don Mattingly (1961);

- Ryan O'Neal (1941); Luther Vandross (1951)
- 21: Tony Danza (1950); Queen Elizabeth II (1926); Charles Grodin (1925); Patti Lupone (1949); Elaine May (1932); Iggy Pop (1947); Anthony Quinn (1915)
- 22: Eddie Albert (1915); Glenn Campbell (1936); Peter Frampton (1950); Charlotte Rae (1926); Aaron Spelling (1928)
- 23: Valerie Bertinelli (1960); David Binye (1939); Shirley Temple Black (1928); James Buchanan (1791); Sandra Dee (1947); Jan Hooks (1957); Lee Majors (1940); Duncan Renaldo (1904); William Shakespeare (1564); Warren Spahn (1921); Herve Villechaize (1943)
- 24: Jill Ireland (1936); Jack E. Leonard (1911); Shirley MacLaine (1934); Barbra Streisand (1942)
- 25: Ella Fitzgerald (1918); Edward R. Murrow (1908); Al Pacino (1940)
- 26: Carol Burnett (1936); Mike Kellin (1922); Edgar Kennedy (1890); Sal Maglie (1917); Bobby Rydell (1942)
- 27: Judy Carne (1919); Sandy Dennis (1937); Sheena Easton (1959); Ulysses S. Grant (1822); Rogers Hornsby (1896); Jack Klugman (1922); Ferdinand Magellan (1480)
- 28: Ann-Margaret (1941); Lionel Barrymore (1878); Jay Leno (1950); James Monroe (1758); Jack Nicholson (1937)
- 29: Duke Ellington (1899); William Randolph Hearst (1863); Daniel Day-Lewis (1957); Michelle Pfeiffer (1957)
- 30: Eve Arden (1912); Cloris Leachman (1930); Willie Nelson (1933)

Support for Parents with Special Children



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Joyce Chang
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Learning your child has a disability can be both devastating and frightening for a family. Families living with a disabled child are often overwhelmed in providing for their child's special needs, the maze of bureaucracies and sometimes just the stigma.

As a neighborhood agency, Support for Families provides families with such services as support groups, short-term counseling, parent/professional educational workshops, parent-to-parent mentors and more.

As a community resource parent, I am available to talk with you about needs for families having disabilities. I am also available to provide information about special resources available to families.

Please feel free to contact me at 282-7494. Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Joyce Chang

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HOLLYWOOD
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PARKSIDE
RICHMOND
SILVER TERRACE
SOUTH OF
MARKET
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This Month in S.F. History

APRIL

1 In 1850, a four-story building at the corner of Pacific and Kearny Sts. was purchased for \$150,000 by the City for its new town hall. On the same day, San Francisco's county government was established. In 1851, Montgomery St. became the City's first illuminated thoroughfare, with street lights funded by property owner's contributions.

4 In 1848, the first American public school in San Francisco opened. In 1969, the final section of the BART trans-bay tube was connected.

7 In 1957, sections of two former cable car routes were combined to form the new Powell & Hyde St. line.

10 In 1878, Adolph Sutro commenced operation of his steam railroad.

11 In 1958, Brooks Hall, a sub-surface auditorium adjacent to the Civic Center Plaza, was dedicated.

12 In 1898, the bulk of Yerba Buena Island was transferred by the U.S. Army to the Navy.

14 In 1860, after a series of relays from St. Joseph, Missouri, the first pony express delivery arrived in San Francisco.

15 In 1850, the City of San Francisco was incorporated. In 1926, the Visitation Valley branch gymnasium of the S.F. Boys Club was officially dedicated. In 1966, dredging operations were commenced in San Francisco Bay for the sectional placement of the trans-bay tube.

18 In 1868, the San Francisco branch of the SPCA was established. In 1906, a powerful earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 8.25 on the later established Richter scale shook San Francisco at 5:12 a.m. for nearly a minute. Ruptured gas and water lines contributed to the worst fire in the City's history. In 1907, the Fairmont Hotel was opened.

19 In 1850, the British brig Warlock arrived in San Francisco bringing the first Chinese immigrants from Hong Kong. In 1852, the California Historical Society was incorporated. In 1906, in the aftermath of the earthquake, 176 prisoners were transferred to the military prison on Alcatraz from the City's damaged jail.

20 In 1958, after decades of service, including 20 years running on the Bay Bridge's lower deck, Key System trains were replaced by buses.

21 In 1892, the first buffalo was born in Golden Gate Park. In 1940, the eventual General Douglas MacArthur Tunnel in the Presidio was opened.

25 In 1945, the newly created United Nations began its first conference in San Francisco.

28 In 1854, Howard & Hudson Co. published the City's first Chinese language newspaper, the bilingual Golden Hills News, to serve California's 25,000 new readers from the Orient.

Parent Education Classes at VVMS

親愛的家長和訪各社區居民們，
本校訪各初級中學將為社區的家長們和居民們提供成人夜校。開學日期是四月五日星期二，時間是從晚上六時至八時。在本校圖書館報到，然後去各自教室。成人學校將於每星期二、星期三晚六時至八時上課，為期八周。
成人學校提供下列課程：
教授新移民或移民英文
電腦班和寫作班
教授如何教育子女，商討如何改進學校
成人學校是免費的，且每次上課時招待咖啡和小點心。泊車方便，就在學校停車場。
不需預先報名，如要上成人學校，只需在四月五日晚六時來本校圖書館。請不要放過這一好機會。如需更多的有關消息，請打電話 469-4590，找 Beverly Peoples。

It's time to go back to school! Yes, Parent Education Classes begin at Visitation Valley Middle School on Tuesday, April 5, and will meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for the following eight weeks. We have a dynamic program offering for every interested parent and community member.

We will offer: ESL classes; computer classes; word processing; writing enrichment; and "Parents Together" - parenting skills, sharing concerns for our students and more.

Classes will be from 6 to 8 p.m. with a social break in between with coffee and goodies provided.

Please attend this wonderful opportunity to come together, get to know one another and enhance your skills, meeting in the library for the first class to sign-up for your subject and room assignment.

No cost! It's free! Parking is provided in the school parking lot with entrance off Visitation Ave.

For more information, please call Beverly Peoples, parent liaison for Visitation Valley Middle School at 469-4590.

SUMP, THE GRUMP By Jackie Holder



Golden Gate National Recreation Area Events

Call to reserve for most activities.

APRIL 1
Ocean Beach
*Beach Party Campfire: Join a ranger for an hour-long program to enjoy the beach, the waves and the night from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring warm sweaters and marshmallows. Meet the ranger on the beach at Lincoln Ave. and Great Highway.

APRIL 2
Baker Beach
*Seacoast Defense: Explore the military history of Battery Chamberlain and participate in a demonstration of the last six-inch disappearing rifle from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Meet the ranger at the gate to Battery Chamberlain at Baker Beach.

*Main Post Historical Walk: Join a walking tour of the Presidio covering more than 200 years of San Francisco history, architecture, cultural landscapes and natural history from 10 a.m. to noon by meeting at the Presidio Main Post flagpole (556-0865).

APRIL 9
Fort Funston Nursery
*Volunteer Planting Day: Spend the morning planting lupines, coyote brush and other native plants of San Francisco's coastline. Learn about their importance in a sand dune ecosystem from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet a ranger at the Fort Funston Native Plant Nursery (556-8371).

Fort Mason Center
*Fort Mason Center Tour: Take a guided tour through this cultural and recreational facility where more than 50 arts, environmental and cultural groups utilize converted military warehouses for museums, theaters, galleries, classes and workshops. Meet at Fort Mason Center Offices Building A at 11 a.m. (441-5706).

Presidio
*Mountain Lake in Fort Point Hike: Amble along the last three miles of Presidio founder Anza's route, sharing thoughts of history, weather permitting, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet Presidio docent Bob Halsey at Mountain Lake Park, returning by Muni 28 bus (556-0865).

*Park Patrol-1895: Find out about daily cavalry life on the Presidio and in the mountains as "Lieutenant Larry Gill" inspects his gear before leaving to patrol Yosemite National Park in the year 1895, weather permitting, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on the lawn outside the Presidio Army Museum.

*Presidio Architectural and Cultural Landscape: Examine the historic

buildings and landscape on the Presidio and see how the post has developed since 1776. Many styles of architecture will be seen from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Bring a camera and meet the ranger in front of the Officers' Club at the Main Post.

APRIL 10
Baker Beach
Natural Art: Discover with your children the beautiful shapes and colors of nature in a parent-participation program geared for children ages four to six, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Meet a ranger at Battery Chamberlain at the north end of Baker Beach (556-8371).

Presidio
A Walk on the Wild Side: The Presidio contains wonderful natural areas to explore. Learn about the plants, animals and geology of the San Francisco peninsula, weather permitting, from 10 a.m. to noon. Dress warmly (556-0865).

APRIL 16
Fort Funston
*Hike to the Bank Swallows: Observe and learn about the threatened California bird nesting in the cliffs of Fort Funston by taking a 1.5 mile strenuous hike through the sand dunes from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring water, binoculars, lunch and a bird book and meet the ranger at the small parking lot at the intersection of John Muir Drive and Skyline Blvd (556-8371).

Presidio
*Main Post Historical Walk (See April 2)
Sutro Heights Park
*Sutro Heights Stroll: Join a walking tour of this splendid park, once the home of Adolph Sutro, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. by meeting at the Lion's Gate located at 48th and Point Lobos Aves. (556-8371).

APRIL 17
Fort Funston
*Easy Riding on the Sunset Trail: Enjoy a casual stroll along the Sunset trail to learn about native plants and sand dune ecology in the largest remaining remnant of the ancient dune field that once covered most of San Francisco from 1 to 2 p.m. This program accommodates wheelchair users. Meet a ranger at the head of the Sunset trail in the Fort Funston parking lot (556-8371).

Presidio
*Coastal Defense Hike: A scenic three-mile hike from the Golden Gate Bridge to Baker Beach. Explore remnants of historic coastal defense batteries from the 1870s through World War II, weather permitting, from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet the ranger at the Battery

East parking lot above Fort Point along Lincoln Blvd.

*Presidio Cemetery Walk: San Francisco's National Cemetery is the final resting place of many famous and interesting people: pre-Civil War soldiers, a Union spy, an Indian scout and 34 Medal of Honor recipients. Dress warmly for a walk from 10 to 11:30 a.m., meeting the guide, weather permitting, at the entrance gate along Lincoln Blvd. (556-0865).

APRIL 20
Cliff House Visitor Center
*Adolph Sutro Evening Slide Presentation: Join a ranger for a one hour slide program about the life of Adolph Sutro and his contributions to San Francisco from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. by meeting at the Cliff House Visitor Center (556-8371).

APRIL 23
Fort Funston Nursery
*Volunteer Planting Day (See April 9)
Fort Mason Center
*Fort Mason Center Tour (See April 9)
Fort Point
*Pier Crabbing: Learn about equipment, bait, regulations and other important aspects of crabbing in the Bay, weather permitting, from 10 a.m. to noon. Dress warmly and meet the ranger at the Fort Point Fishing Pier with 50 cents bait fee (556-0865).

Presidio
*Crissy Army Airfield Historical Walk: Learn about the history of Crissy Field, the early Army Air Corps and military aviation pioneers, weather permitting, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Meet Wyman Spalding, a pilot stationed at Crissy Field for five years. Dress warmly and meet in the parking area adjacent to the old green parachute shop near the west end of Crissy Field (556-0865).

APRIL 24
*Wildflower Walk: Explore coastal bluffs on a two mile walk along San Francisco's wild edge near Fort Point from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. (556-0865).

*Buckets, Bullets, Brass and a Banquette: Join a park ranger wearing an historic uniform describe the duties of a member of the guard at Fort Point and demonstrating the "load in nine" drill for a Springfield rifle-musket from 3 to 3:30 p.m. Meet in the guard room just inside the fort.

APRIL 29
Ocean Beach
*Beach Party Campfire (See April 1)
APRIL 30
Fort Funston
Hike to the Bank Swallows (See April 16)

AND THAT NAME IS...

CHEVROLET

"See the U.S.A. in your Chevrolet" went the popular jingle that encouraged many post-World War II car buyers to purchase thousands of what had already become an American tradition. Crowded urbanites moved their families to the less-congested suburbs, making auto transportation a necessity rather than a luxury.

Their journeys, the many preceding them, and the countless millions that followed can all trace their origins to the treacherous, turn-of-the-century dirt track behind a Buick plant in Flint, Michigan where auto executive William C. Durant staged a race between French brothers Louis and Arthur Chevrolet. Both drivers steered their vehicles down the course at speeds deemed risky for those times. Louis Chevrolet winning the contest with several dangerous maneuvers.

With his less daring exhibition, Arthur Chevrolet soon became Durant's personal chauffeur. Louis, on the other hand, was backed as a daredevil race driver, developed an engine, and by 1911 had agreed to direct assembly of Durant's new Classic Six, a passenger car the company decided to call Chevrolet.

Later retrieving a scrap of wallpaper with a catchy design he'd taken years before from a hotel in France, Durant introduced the Chevrolet logo, the cross-like emblem he saw "marching into infinity," and applied it first to his 1913 Royal Mail Roadster and Baby Grand touring car models. More than 80 years later, General Motors continues to manufacture Chevrolets, and its famous trademark is ever-present.

Discovery Museum

An exciting museum where children and their families discover the world together, the Bay Area Discovery Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at East Fort Baker. Permanent exhibitions include: San Francisco Bay and an exciting Maze of Illusions. Admission is \$4 per person. Call 332-7674 for more information.

Saturdays are Special At the Randall Museum

Limited April classes are available at the Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, starting at 1 p.m. with sign-ups beginning 30 minutes earlier. Parking is free and children under eight should be accompanied by an adult. Each class is \$4 per person. Call 554-9600 for more information.

*April 16: Handmade Paper Work shop has paperhangers showing how to make decorative paper for cards and gifts using natural and recycled materials, including wrapping paper, ribbons and metallic foil.

*April 23: Fish Print Flags continues the Randall tradition of Japanese-style recording of fish catches where shrimp, octopi and crabs are also used in making aquatic flags.

*April 30: Silkscreen T-Shirts lets you design a unique handmade garment using small hand-held silkscreens depicting individual birds and animals where wonderful patterns can

be created. T-shirts are available for \$4, or you can bring your own.

Regular museum hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Animal exhibitions are 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m., with an animal talk each Saturday at 2:15 p.m. A model train exhibit is open the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from noon to 5 p.m.

San Francisco Youth Track and Field

*April 1 and 2: Mayor's First Annual 100-Meter Championships for Boys and Girls 6 to 10 Years Old, sponsored by OMI Community Association, 10 a.m. at Kezar Stadium in Golden Gate Park.

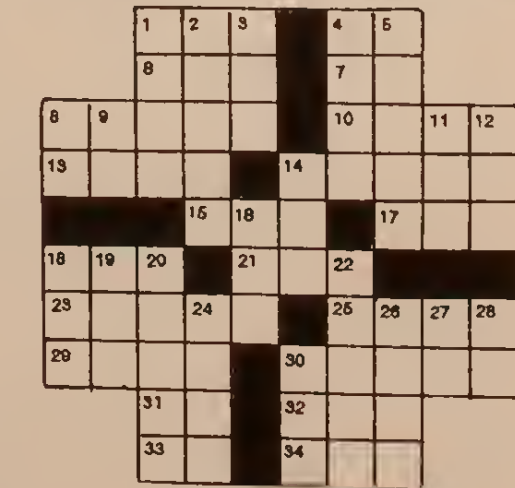
*April 30: Youth Track and Field Meet, 9 a.m. at Kezar Stadium in Golden Gate Park. Entry forms, due April 22 by 5 p.m., are available at Kezar Pavilion and S.F. Recreation and Park playgrounds. Call 753-7028 or 753-7029 for more information.

Grapevine Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Wager
- 4. Preceding AD
- 8. Flat boat
- 7. East of (ab)
- 8. Ice hut
- 10. ___ King
- 11. Conveyed
- 14. Smells
- 15. Pitching effectiveness
- 17. Spirited
- 18. Pacific Lumber Company (ab)
- 21. Curve
- 23. Center
- 25. Foreseen
- 29. Completed
- 30. Nary
- 31. Down (ab)
- 32. Top notch
- 33. Yard (ab)

PREVIOUS PUZZLE
MELT BARN
ATOM ANDY
CARROT
KABIB
AREA ACRE
CURB BOAR
OWNAL
BARREL
ODOR HATE
ROAD URAL



- 34. Great Range (ab)
- 1. Globe
- 2. Decay
- 3. Boxing term
- 4. Drop
- 5. Dye
- 8. Of a thing
- 11. Gun club
- 12. No such number
- 14. Rower
- 16. Rodent
- 18. Degree
- 19. ___ Durocher
- 20. Sweets
- 22. Chooses
- 24. Cut
- 26. Above
- 27. Reference (ab)
- 28. Number (ab)
- 30. Peeler



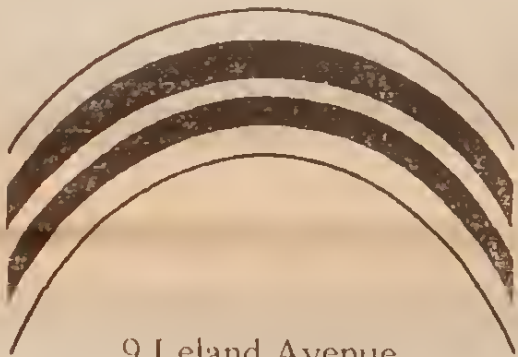
Congratulations to the Visitacion Valley Elementary School Spelling Bee champions: Eric Wong, kindergarten; Corinne Wang, first-grade; Dara Shen, second-grade; Natalia Aldana, third-grade; Victor Du, fourth-grade; and Fan Lau, fifth-grade, the VVES champion who went on to represent the school at the citywide Spelling Bee contest in March.

Spring Flea Market on Potrero Hill

There is always a bargain to be found at the Potrero Hill Spring Flea Market on Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St. Along with the merchandise, browsers can sample a wide variety of foods prepared by members of the Potrero Hill community. Admission to the Flea Market is free. For more information, call 826-8080.

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Literary Programs for S.F. Library Week

Reading by award-winning authors Laurence Yep and Joe Cottonwood, a presentation by the Word for Word theater ensemble, and a reception for volunteers and other patrons are among activities scheduled at the San Francisco Public Library during National Library Week, April 17 through 23.

Events at the Main Library, Civic Center, begun on Tuesday, April 19 at 7 p.m. when the "Tuesday Evening With..." series of author presentations features Laurence Yep. Sponsored by the Library's Office of Children's Services, the event features the author of "Dragon Wings" and "Child of the Owl" reading from his works. Yep will be available immediately after his presentation to sign copies of his books.

Also scheduled on April 19 at 7 p.m. is "The People in the Rock: Mystical Petroglyphs of Northern Italy," an illustrated lecture by author/printer Terry Horgan on the Valcamonica Valley rock engravings of Northern Italy. Sponsored by the Pacific Center for the Book Arts, the lecture will be held in the Special Collections Room on the third floor of the Main Library.

National Library Week activities in the branches begin on April 20 when Bay Area Book Reviewers Awards (BABRA) winner Joe Cottonwood -author of popular books for teens, including "Am't" and "Adventures of Boone Barnaby" - visits the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th St. at 1 p.m. to discuss his work. Cottonwood will also be at the Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Dr. at 7 p.m. later that day.

The Word for Word theater ensemble comes to the Park Branch Library, 1833 Page St., on April 20 at 7 p.m. Their latest live performance will be Joanne Greenberg's "A Passion in Eden."

"Still Viet Nam," a panel discussion with three local authors, begins at the Sunset Branch Library on Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m. Poet John Balaban, Duc Qui Nguyen and San Jose Mercury News columnist T.T. Nhu are the participants in this reading and open discussion moderated by Michael Palmer.

The Marina Branch Library, 1890 Chestnut St., continues festivities on Friday, April 22 at 3:30 p.m. with Jimbo the Clown entertaining children of all ages.

Activities draw to a close with a joint National Library Week - National Volunteer Appreciation Week celebration at the Main Library on Saturday, April 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Lurie Room. In honor of the S.F. Public Library's volunteers and winners of the "Libraries Change Lives" competition, the event will be open to the general public with entertainment and information about library volunteer programs.

All National Library Week events are free, with selected programs funded by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. For more information, contact your neighborhood branch library or call Library Community Relations at 557-4277.

Grapevine Want-Ads

Private parties only. Up to 20 words for \$1. Extra lines 50 cents each. Mail ad with a check by 20th of month prior to issue date to Visitacion Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134

April 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 April Fools Day Good Friday 7:00pm Visitacion Valley Asian Neighborhood Assn. 8:00pm Valley Baptist Youth Group	2
3 Daylight Savings Easter 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	4	5	6 6:30pm Valleywide Parents' Council	7 11:00am VVCC Senior Council Meeting 7:00pm ROSES meeting	8 8:00pm Valley Baptist Youth Group	9
10 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	11	12 4:00pm VVCC Board Meeting 4:30pm Sunnydale Tenants Meet 7:00pm El Dorado N.R.C. Meeting	13 6:00pm Executive Park Advisory Committee-open to all	14	15 8:00pm Valley Baptist Youth Group	16
17 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	18	19	20	21	22 3:00pm Visitacion Valley Improvement Club 8:00pm Valley Baptist Youth Group	23
24 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	25	26	27	28 USDA Surplus Food Distribution Day at VVCC	29 8:00pm Valley Baptist Youth Group	30

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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Food Production

From Page 3

cultivate only about 300 of them. Of those, only about 12 have emerged as major staples. Through genetic modification, crop breeders can:

*Increase the use of plant diversity by first learning through biotech what genes of interest reside in which plants, and moving these specific genes into crops now in use around the globe

*Expanding the genetic variation in staple crops by breeding into them desirable traits from heretofore unavailable sources. This will not affect the relatively narrow genetic lineage of many crops in the near term. By next century, it will significantly expand the gene pool used in modern agriculture, reducing the relatively low, but real risk of potential crop failures

*Expand via cloning any wild relative of modern crop plants that might be threatened with extinction.

*Enabling scientists to learn what important genes are actually contained in the millions of plant specimens housed in gene banks around the world

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

In addition to the environmental benefits biotechnology will bring, there are potential risks that need to be carefully evaluated for each new plant variety. In order to minimize any environmental risks presented by crop plants modified with biotech, ecologists have conducted years of outdoor testing under strictly controlled conditions. In the United States alone, researchers have undertaken more than 370 outdoor tests in 35 states with 12 different crops modified with biotech

Before field testing of a genetically-modified crop that might introduce a plant pest into the U.S., an application must be approved by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and in some cases by the Environmental Protection Agency. Federal agencies designate an assessment team that includes geneticists, ecologists and the state regulatory staff with expertise in regional environmental conditions to evaluate the technical data required with the application. Approval of the test comes after the agencies determine the new crop variety will present no diffi-

cult risks to the environment.

In March, 1993, APHIS announced amended rules that allow six crops with a long history of safe genetic modification to undergo field tests with 30 day advance notification to APHIS

The single most comprehensive outdoor test yet completed for biotech modified crop plants - and one of the most complex tests in plant ecology ever designed - was completed last year in the United Kingdom. It involved testing rapeseed plants, both modified through biotechnology and unmodified, in 12 different environments, each with many different environmental factors such as the presence of grazing animals, insects and various diseases. Conducted by population biologists, community ecologists and researchers from other disciplines, the results of this landmark study were released in the scientific journal Nature in June, 1993

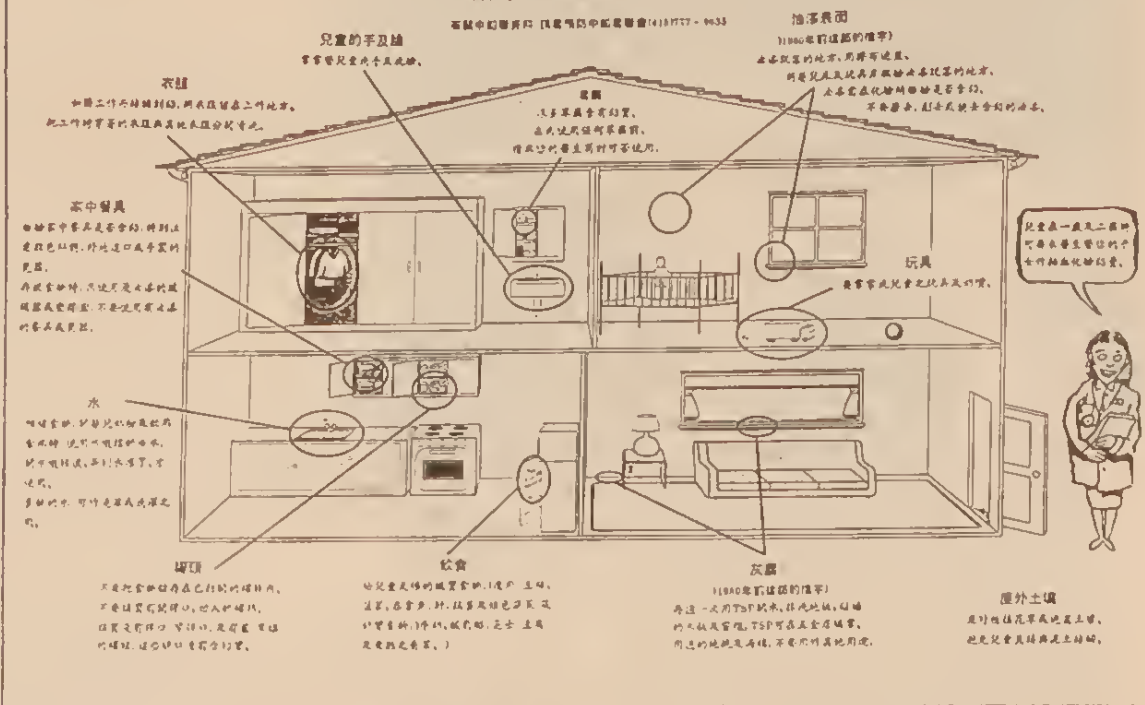
As expected, the test clearly showed that genetically modified rapeseed plants did not behave any differently than the traditionally bred plants under any environmental conditions tested. It also demonstrated that when possible risks are identified, ecologists and biologists have the means to effectively examine those concerns

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